

EMAIL FROM CANCER CARE ONTARIO (ONTARIO HEALTH) TO JENNIE DALE, DBC JUNE 8, 2022.

Jennie had asked for an update since 15 months prior (Jan 2021) they had indicated they were working on including breast density in the letter sent to women. Although all family doctors are now informed of the density after a patient's mammogram, they have not acted to inform women in Category C.

Dear Jennie,

Thank you for your question regarding breast density reporting and notification within the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP). The OBSP is committed to using the best available research to guide screening practices, including screening for participants with dense breasts. As a reminder, to support timely recall of OBSP participants with dense breasts, individuals with high breast density ($\geq 75\%$ mammographic density) and normal screening results get a result letter from Ontario Health telling them they will be asked to come back in one year (instead of every two years) due to having dense breast tissue on their mammogram. These participants also receive a [breast density fact sheet](#) with further information.

With increasing awareness that high breast density is a risk factor for developing breast cancer and interest in breast density information among participants and healthcare providers, the OBSP has enhanced its breast density reporting and notification practices. In 2021, the following updates were made in the OBSP:

- Updated the two-year normal result letter to indicate how participants can access their breast density information and include a link to a new educational breast density web page
- Updated radiologist reports so that all reports now include a Breast Imaging Reporting and Data Systems (BI-RADS) breast density category
- Developed new educational breast density web pages for participants, primary care providers and OBSP sites
- Updated the OBSP data system to include a BI-RADS breast density field

We are continuing our work to enhance breast density reporting and notification practices through evidence reviews, jurisdictional scans and data analyses. The findings of this work will be used to help inform further updates to correspondence letters, including if the one-year recall recommendation should be changed to be based on the BI-RADS breast density classification and to include a BI-RADS breast density classification in result letters.

Kind regards,
Chamila

From: jenniedale@rogers.com <jenniedale@rogers.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 11:13 AM

To: melissa.coulson@ontariohealth.ca; Rabeneck, Linda <Linda.Rabeneck@ontariohealth.ca>; Fienberg, Samantha <samantha.fienberg@ontariohealth.ca>; Adhihetty, Chamila <chamila.adhihetty@ontariohealth.ca>

Subject: RE: Breast Density Notification in Ontario

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Hi Melissa, I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to follow up on this letter from 15 months ago where you stated that Ontario Health was working on including breast density in the results letter. If you don't mind, I would appreciate an update. Thank you.

Jennie Dale
Co-founder/Executive Director
DenseBreastsCanada.ca
MyBreastScreening.ca

Until there's a cure, let's find breast cancer early!

From: Coulson, Melissa <melissa.coulson@ontariohealth.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:46 AM
To: jenniedale@rogers.com; Rabeneck, Linda <Linda.Rabeneck@ontariohealth.ca>; Fienberg, Samantha <samantha.fienberg@ontariohealth.ca>; Adhihetty, Chamila <chamila.adhihetty@ontariohealth.ca>
Subject: RE: Breast Density Notification in Ontario

Dear Ms. Dale,

Thank you for your email.

The Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) recognizes that women with dense breasts have an increased risk of developing breast cancer and that dense tissue may hide cancers on mammograms. Currently, radiologists provide a report to primary care providers (family physicians and nurse practitioners) that includes breast density information for all women screened through the OBSP. This may be reported as ≥ 75 or < 75 percent mammographic density or the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS) breast density classification. We have work underway to ensure that BI-RADS breast density classification is included on all reports.

In addition to reports to primary care providers, to make sure women with high breast density (≥ 75 percent mammographic density) come back regularly to get screened, OBSP participants with high breast density and normal screening results get a result letter and breast density fact sheet (explaining that they will be asked to come back in one year due to having dense breast tissue on their mammogram). **We are working to include breast density information in all result letters sent by Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario).** In the short-term, we will be adding information to result letters that lets women know that they can speak with their physician about breast density.

To summarize, our initial work related to breast density includes ensuring that BI-RADS breast density classification is included in all reports to primary care and adding information to result letters that lets women know that they can speak with their physician about breast density. Our target for this work is spring/summer 2021; however, as healthcare services in Ontario continue to be impacted by the

ongoing COVID-19 pandemic this timeline may be updated as we support OBSP sites through the coming months.

Sincerely,
Melissa Coulson

Director, Cancer Screening Program Design and Implementation
Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario)
www.ontariohealth.ca